

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:AF/WESCHAUFLE,JR.

APPROVED BY:AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 285799

NODIS

CHEROKEE, GENEVA FOR WISNER, LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 12971 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 20 NOV 76.

QTE: S E C R E T NAIROBI 12971

NODIS CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS TO WISNER IN GENEVA

FOR SHAUFLELE FROM REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

PINTS, RH

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SITHOLE

1. OUR DOUBTS IN GENEVA ABOUT SITHOLE'S EXACT MOVEMENTS  
WERE CLEARED UP LAST NIGHT WHEN HE BOARDED THE SAME PLANE  
BRINGING ME TO NAIROBI. SITHOLE SAID THAT HE LEFT GENEVA  
FOR ZURICH FRIDAY EVENING, WOULD SPEND THREE OR FOUR HOURS IN  
NAIROBI, GO TO DAR SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AND LEAVE DAR SUNDAY  
AFTERNOON FOR MAPUTO. HE HOPED TO RETURN TO  
GENEVA ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON BUT WAS NOT SURE HE COULD KEEP

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THAT SCHEDULE. A FIRST CLASS PASSENGER HIMSELF, HE HAD THREE

AIDES IN THE ECONOMY SECTION: "IN THIS DANGEROUS TIME, ONE CANNOT TRAVEL ALONE". HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC ABOUT THE REASONS FOR HIS TRAVEL, SAYING ONLY: "I HAVE MANY MATTERS TO CLEAR UP OUT HERE."

2. OTHER SITHOLE POINTS FOR WHATEVER THEY ARE WORTH:

(A) A MUGABE-NKOMO SPLIT IS GUARANTEED, THE SOONER THE BETTER, BECAUSE PROGRESS IN GENEVA IS DEPENDENT ON THEIR SEPARATION. NEITHER MAN HAS ANY FOLLOWING INSIDE ZIMBABWE. MUGABE'S ABILITY TO FRUSTRATE THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY IS VERY LIMITED; HE HAS NO INFLUENCE WITH ZIPA, IS SIMPLY BEING USED BY THE FIGHTERS.

(B) THE WEST IS FAR TOO CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT ZIPA WILL DO IN THE EVENT OF A SETTLEMENT WITH WHICH IT DOES NOT AGREE. LARGE NUMBERS OF ZIPA SOLDIERS WILL WALK HOME IF "AN AUTHENTIC LEADER" COMES TO POWER IN ZIMBABWE. ZIPA SOLDIERS ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER SOLDIERS, "YOURS IN VIET NAM OR THE PORTUGUESE IN MOZAMBIQUE," THEY ALL GET TIRED FIGHTING.

(C) HE DID NOT TELL ME IN OUR GENEVA MEETING, BUT I SHOULD KNOW THAT "MANY OF US" ARE CONVINCED THAT THE USG BECAME ACTIVE ABOUT RHODESIA IN ORDER TO BRING ITS PUPPET, NKOMO, TO POWER AND PRESERVE AMERICAN INTERESTS. TO MY ASSERTIONS THAT THE USG HAD NO CANDIDATES FOR LEADERSHIP, HE VAGUELY REPLIED, "I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT," AS IF HE HAD NOT HEARD IT BEFORE.

(D) ACTUALLY THE BRITISH ARE NOT CONDUCTING A BAD CONFERENCE. THEY CAN QUICKLY REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH "THE REST OF US" AS SOON AS MUGABE GOES HOME. HE ADMIRES RICHARD'S PATIENCE, AND WE MUST URGE HIM TO REMAIN PATIENT.

(E) IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CLOSE OUT IN GENEVA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND MOVE TO SALISBURY, WHERE ZIMBABWEANS CAN BE "FREE OF EXTRANEIOUS INFLUENCES." HE HAS NO DOUBT THAT DIFFERENCE AMONG NATIONALISTS CAN BE OVERCOME ONCE THEIR LEADERS ARE OFF THE WORLD SCENE.

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(F) SITHOLE IS CONVINCED THAT SMITH HAS "FINALLY SEEN THE LIGHT." THE USG MUST CONTINUE TO EXPERT PRESSURE ON HIM WHEN THE NATIONALISTS MOVE FROM GENEVA TO SALISBURY AND WORK OUT "THE REAL SETTLEMENT."

MARSHALL

UNQTE: KISSINGER

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